

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY**

**7:00 P.M.**

**FEBRUARY 4, 2015**

This Regular Meeting of Council was called to order on the above-stated date at the above-stated time after the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence by President of Council Richard Dellapenna with the following Members of Council present:

**RC-1      PRESENT:      KEITH SOLES, DANIEL CARR,  
                                 RICHARD DELLAPENNA, JAMES  
                                 BARRY, JAMIE BREWSTER-FILOTEI,  
                                 FAWN WALKER-MONTGOMERY**

**ABSENT:      DALE McCALL**

Pastor Warren Smith of the McKeesport Ministerium led the prayer.

Ms. James said Mr. McCall is absent this evening.

Also present were Mayor Michael Cherepko, City Administrator Matthew Gergely, City Solicitor J. Jason Elash and members of the Administration.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION:      Mr. Barry moved, seconded by Ms. Brewster-Filotei, "To approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting of January 7, 2015."**

**RC-2      YEAS:      SOLES, CARR, DELLAPENNA, BARRY,  
                                 BREWSTER-FILOTEI, WALKER-MONTGOMERY.. 6**

**NAYS:      NONE..... 0**

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

- Received the Monthly Report for January 2015 from Chief of Police Bryan Washowich.
- Received the Fire Report for the Month of January 2015 from Fire Chief Jeff List.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- Mayor Cherepko said thank you Mr. President. He said he has just a few things this evening and a couple of announcements. He said this Sunday at 12:30 p.m. Beulah Park Methodist Church on Grandview Avenue will be hosting their Souper Bowl Party. He said if anyone has not been up there to that fundraiser, all proceeds are donated to charities and it is a sampling of upwards of 15 to 20 different soups. He said they also turn it into a contest.
- Mayor Cherepko said on the morning of February 14, 2015, they will have the NAACP Pancake Breakfast at the Common Grounds. He said that runs from about 8:00 a.m. until noon.
- Mayor Cherepko said he wants to comment on the GTECH Program. He said it is a program that they recruited, actually Mr. Tedesco recruited them to get them into town. He said McKeesport is the first community outside of the City of Pittsburgh where GTECH will come in and start cleaning up the green space. He said they are actually going to hold a program ... which will go above and beyond this green space. He said they have already volunteered at the Bethlehem Baptist Church for the Thanksgiving dinners. He said the GTECH staff was there serving dinners. He said they are really becoming engrossed into the community, which is nice. He said they are going above and beyond. He said they will be holding a youth program conversation about what to do as far

as attracting and bringing in programs for the youth. He said that program will be held at Twin Rivers on February 17, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. He said if the people in the community have a chance to attend that and take part and give them some ideas; GTECH trying to find their next endeavor to take on in the City. He said the City will continue to work with them and is excited to have them here in the City and excited to see them going above and beyond what they did the first time to bring them in.

- Mayor Cherepko said one of the other things he just received in his office was that the Black Berets have been meeting. He said they have organized the group and have over one hundred members now. He said they will be holding a dinner fundraiser on February 28 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Elks Building on Walnut Street. He said they have actually outgrown their facility already with the group that they have. He said they were originally in the St. Pius building, Keith Murphy's building, and they have actually grown and are looking for another place to continue and practice. He said if they could come out on Saturday, February 28, to support them, it is another activity that has come back to the City who was here years ago and they are getting the youth involved, keeping them busy and interacting with them to give them those positive life learning experiences that impact their lives from now into adulthood. He said the City is excited to have them back.
- Mayor Cherepko said he talked a little bit about the snow last night. He said he doesn't want to go into this too much. He said the nuisance snow is here, as he calls it. He said day after day it is coming. He said the Public Works Department is doing the best they can to stay on top of it. He said the one day, they came out on Sunday night around 11:00 p.m. and worked all the way until 3:00 p.m. the next day. He said then they went home and came back out at 5:30 p.m. and worked until midnight. He said they worked basically 21 or 22 hours out of that 24 hour shift. He said they are out there doing what they

can, battling it. He said as it keeps coming, what people have to remember is that they have to worry about the primary roads first and then they like to get to the alleys. He said when the snow comes every other day, they sometimes don't make it to the alleys. He said then when there are freezing cold temperatures like they had the last couple of days, some of those alleys were like ice skating rinks. He said they are aware of that and it was not just a problem here in the City but all over. He said they do try to get the primary routes and get to the secondary roads as quickly as they can and then do the alleys when Mother Nature lets them. He said the crews have been doing well. He said Steve Kondrosky, as Public Works Director, has been staying on top of the roads and they will continue to pray and hope that Mother Nature is not too nasty to them over the next month or so. He said they are out there. He said if there are any complaints, let his office know. He said his office addresses every single complaint that comes in about snow as quickly as they possibly can. He said also keep in mind, that they run into a lot of problems especially when they have the freeze like that, with sidewalks being cleaned. He said there are a lot of elderly people and with a high population of senior citizens, he understands that. He said they need to do what they can to keep their sidewalks clear as well as the sidewalks of the businesses. He said they have been contacting the businesses, especially in the downtown area. He said they had homes and businesses who did not get their sidewalks cleaned and it becomes a safety concern where kids are walking to school. He said then the kids have to walk off the sidewalk and are walking on the streets, which obviously is a major safety concern. He said they have been sending letters out. He said Mr. Tedesco has the ordinance officers contacting businesses. He said they are not as concerned about the residential areas unless it is a safety concern. He said he just wanted to give a friendly reminder that they should try to maintain their sidewalks and keep them clear of snow. He said for those who are young and healthy, which he sees some of them in here, maybe get out there and shovel for a neighbor or someone close to you that

cannot get out there and do that. He said keep that in mind. He said and make sure when it gets real cold, if you know there is an elderly neighbor nearby, it is good to go check up on them, knock on the door to see if they are okay and make sure they don't need anything. He said that is just part of being in the community and making the community a better place to live for each and every one of us. He said he knows the City has an unbelievable number of people who do these types of things on a daily basis, and are not doing it for recognition but just doing it because they are proud of their community and want to make it a better place to live. He said just remember complaints should be made to his office and he will address them as quickly as possible.

- Mayor Cherepko said that is about it. He said he mentioned this last night, in case anyone didn't hear, he will clarify it again. He said last week, Marty Griffin of KDKA Radio, was blasting the City pretty badly about one customer who called on Thursday and said her street was never touched. He said to make a long story short, it was not accurate at all and as a matter of fact, when the complaint came in after hours at 4:45 p.m. on Monday, the crews went out about 6:00 p.m. and went right up there and hit that road first. He said the road was cleared an hour and a half after the complaint came in. He said they took care of the road again on Tuesday and again on Wednesday. He said when he went up there Thursday, as Marty was blasting the City, he was standing on the street and there was no snow on the street. He said he was very confused so he knocked on the lady's door and they had a nice conversation. He said he told her how puzzled he was because the street was clean. He said she acknowledged and reminded him that it was wet. He said he understood that and explained the situation to her. He said she was apologetic. He said he told her to just let them know. He said he told her to call them and they would get there. He said he explained to her what happened and he is pleased to say that yesterday on the radio, Marty Griffin did apologize to the Mayor's Office and to his assistant, Jennifer, because he did not have accurate

information. He said they sent a nice letter to him and he appreciates that because Marty didn't have to address it at all. He said Marty did acknowledge it publicly and he appreciates that. He said there are a lot of obstacles and challenges in the City and they are far from perfect. He said sometimes he gets a little defensive when they are getting criticized for something that actually was done the proper way and the facts were wrong. He said he does appreciate that Marty at least addressed that publicly because he did not have to do that.

- Mayor Cherepko said everyone should try to stay warm, be safe and hopefully they will get through this next month or so and Spring is right around the corner. He said there are a lot of good things coming this Spring and great activities in the parks and they look forward to that in 2015. He said that concludes his report.

### **CITIZENS IN THE AUDIENCE:**

There were no citizens in the audience who wished to speak.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**ORDINANCE #15-3 – BILL #83: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, RELATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES PENSION, ANNUITY, INSURANCE AND BENEFIT FUND OR FUNDS, TO AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE PENSION PLAN OR PROGRAM APPLICABLE TO THE NON-UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES OF SAID MUNICIPALITY KNOWN AS THE COMBINED PENSION PLAN OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT TO ADD A DEFERRED RETIREMENT OPTION PROGRAM (DROP).**

**MOTION: Mr. Soles moved, seconded by Mr. Carr, "To adopt Bill #83."**

**RC-3** YEAS: SOLES, CARR, DELLAPENNA, BARRY,  
BREWSTER-FILOTEI, WALKER-MONTGOMERY.. 6

NAYS: NONE..... 0

Mr. Dellapenna said they need a motion to put the Comprehensive Plan out for Public Comment and Comment from Allegheny County. He said they need to Amend the Agenda to include this.

### **AMEND THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Mr. Carr moved, seconded by Ms. Brewster-Filotei, "To amend the Agenda to include a motion to send the Comprehensive Plan to Allegheny County for comment and then for Public Comment."

**RC-4** YEAS: SOLES, CARR, DELLAPENNA, BARRY,  
BREWSTER-FILOTEI, WALKER-MONTGOMERY.. 6

NAYS: NONE..... 0

Mr. Dellapenna said they now need a motion to approve Bill ....

Mr. Elash said they just made a motion to send it to the County and Council approved it. He said there is no Bill.

Mayor Cherepko said it is not a Resolution. He said they did not need to amend the Agenda. He said he will comment on this just so the public understands. He said what Council just voted on is a Comprehensive Plan that the City has been working on for about a year and a half now. He said this is a plan for the future of the City ... a vision for the future. He said the plan is more on the Community Development end of it. He said they hired a firm to come in through a grant they received in a collaborative effort with Duquesne. He said for the most part Duquesne has been worrying about Duquesne and McKeesport has been worrying about

McKeesport. He said this makes sure that there are some similarities that they agreed on such as the Millsite, the RIDC site, so that there is no competition between the Duquesne RIDC site and McKeesport. He said they want to change the zoning a little bit. He said all that Council did at this point was to move the Plan to Allegheny County. He said the County will review it and make recommendations. He said then it will allow the City to open this Plan up for public comment and the public will be able to make recommendations. He said then Council can then take the recommendations and make changes and probably in July, their target date, they will hopefully be able to pass a Comprehensive Plan. He said it will not necessarily be exactly in the form that they have today. He said this is the next step ... sending it to the County. He said just so everyone understands, the public will have input on this and then Council will make changes and recommendations before they vote on it. He said the target date is that all of this takes place before July 1, 2015.

Ms. Walker-Montgomery said she did not hear when the Council President opened the Motion for discussion. She said she would like to go on the record by saying that as far as a Comprehensive Plan goes, like she said last night, she thinks it is an excellent plan. She said it has some really good details that are things they can do collaboratively with Duquesne as well as things they can do separately on their own. She said she thinks that Public Safety needs to be addressed within that plan. She said as she said last night on the survey, Public Safety is the number two concern behind demolition for the residents. She said they need to make sure that Public Safety is addressed in this Plan and also include something about community policing. She said there are several models they can use. She said North Carolina, Charlotte and Florida have some models where they are really doing some things along with the police. She said in addition, when they implement this Plan, if they could break this up into committees and make sure they are actually using this Plan. She said she just wanted to reiterate what she said last night.



Mr. Dellapenna said thank you.

**CONTROLLER'S REPORT:**

Mr. Walsh said the amount of the bills for Council approval is \$22,026.22.

**MOTION:**        **Mr. Soles moved, seconded by Ms. Brewster-Filotei, "To approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$22,026.22."**

**RC-5**        YEAS:        SOLES, CARR, DELLAPENNA, BARRY,  
   BREWSTER-FILOTEI, WALKER-MONTGOMERY.. 6  
  
                 NAYS:        NONE..... 0

**ADJOURNMENT:**

President of Council Richard Dellapenna adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette James  
City Clerk and Clerk of Council

APPROVED:

Richard Dellapenna  
President of Council

Continued

February 4, 2015

daw